Himalayan rivers, the Government of India have set up the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982. Suitable provision for this purpose has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Target Fixed for Irrigation Capacity

†2140. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set out the target for irrigation capacity in the country at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the target and the estimate of actual irrigation capacity likely to be installed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country has no capability for utilisation of the irrigation capacity according to the capacity installed; and

(d) if so, the details of the estimated gap between the irrigation capacity installed and that of its utilisation capacity by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The targets for creation of Irrigation Potential during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) are as under:

	Type of Irrigation	Target (in M.ha)
1.	Major and Medium Irrigation	9.81
2.	Minor Irrigation	7.24
	Total	17.05

As all types of Irrigation Projects are planned and executed by the State Governments actual creation of irrigation capacity depends

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on availability of adequate resources with the State Governments and the priority accorded to the irrigation projects by them.

(c) and (d) Lag of a few years between the introduction of irrigation and its full utilisation is unavoidable mainly due to the following reasons: (1) farmers take time to construct the field channels and prepare the land for irrigated farming, (2) switch over from rainfed agriculture to irrigated agriculture involves a major change in agricultural techniques which farmers take time to master, (3) adopting appropriate cropping pattern as per project design is uncertain and (4) poor water management practices at farm level. No official estimate has been made in respect of likely gap between creation and utilisation of irrigation potential by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan as figures in respect of creation/utilisation of potential during the first two years of the Ninth Plan period have not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

Financial Assistance to Sardar Sarovar Dam

2141. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sardar Sarovar Project is proceeding according to schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Gujarat Chief Minister has approached the Central Government to provide urgently a sum of Rs. 2200 crores for its early implementation; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar Project is not proceeding according to the original schedule. The progress on the project is constrained due to Civil Writ Petition filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan in Supreme Court in 1994. Supreme Court in its interim orders on 5.5.1995, directed to maintain the effective height of the dam at RL